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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,493	11/28/2001	Martin Handfield	01-662	1452

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EXAMINER

BASKAR, PADMAVATHI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1645

DATE MAILED: 11/27/2002

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/995,493

Applicant(s)

HANDFIELD ET AL.

Examiner

Padmavathi v Baskar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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RESTRICTION

1. Restriction to one of the following groups of invention is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-2 and 17 drawn to polypeptide classified in class 530, subclass, 350.

Further restriction to one SEQ.ID.NO required (see paragraph # 3).

II. Claims 3-8 and 21-23, drawn to DNA, host cell, vector and pharmaceutical composition classified in class 536, subclass 23.7. Further restriction to one SEQ.ID.NO required (see paragraph # 3).

III. Claims 9-12 drawn to an antibody and a composition comprising antibody classified in class 530, subclass 388.6. Further restriction to one SEQ.ID.NO required (see paragraph # 3).

IV. Claims 13-14, 19-20 and 25-26 drawn to a method for treating or preventing disease caused by A.actinomycetemcomitans infection using DNA, polypeptide or antibody classified in class 424, subclass 263.1, 184.1 and 130.1 Further restriction to one SEQ.ID.NO required (see paragraph # 3).

V. Claims 15-16 drawn to a method of detecting the presence A.actinomycetemcomitans infection using antigen or antibody classified in class 435, subclass 7.22. Further restriction to one SEQ.ID.NO required (see paragraph # 3).

VI. Claims 18 and 24 drawn to a method for inducing immune response using peptide or polynucleotide respectively classified in class 424, subclass 270.1. Further restriction to one SEQ.ID.NO required (see paragraph # 3).

VII. Claim 27 drawn to a method for identifying the presence of a first A. actinomycetemcomitans polynucleotide in a test sample in class 435, subclass 6. Further restriction to one SEQ.ID.NO required (see paragraph # 3).

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

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Group I is directed to polypeptides, which are made of amino acids Groups II is directed to DNA, which consists of nucleic acids. Invention III is drawn to an antibody and is distinct from Inventions I-II since it has an inherent affinity, avidity, and specificity that DNA or a simple protein is not capable of expressing. These products are different to each other biochemically and functionally and are drawn to patentably distinct molecules, which have materially different physical and chemical properties, and structures as represented by their divergent sequences.

Groups IV-VII are different methods utilizing different products with different structure and biological properties. Inventions VII and V are drawn to different methods of detecting *A. actinomycetemcomitans* infection utilizing different biological reagents such as nucleic acids or antigen or antibodies. Invention VI and IV are drawn to methods for inducing an immune response and treatment of *A. actinomycetemcomitans* infection utilizing different products namely proteins, nucleic acids or antibodies Thus Inventions IV, V, VI and VII are different methods using different biological reagents, different method steps which result in different outcome.

Distinct Inventions

3. For each group of inventions I-VII above, restriction to one of the following SEQ.ID.NO is also required under 35 USC 121. Therefore, election is required of one of inventions I – VII and one of SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 224.

Inventions SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 224 are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions; represent structurally different polypeptides and the polynucleotides encoding them. Therefore, where structural identity is required, such as for hybridization or expression, the different sequences have different effects. Thus, each sequence is unique and patentably distinct since each sequence has a different structure with

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specific amino acid or nucleic acid and is identified by a specific SEQ.ID.NO. Restriction is deemed proper because these products appear to constitute patentably distinct inventions. These sequences are thus deemed to constitute independent and distinct inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such sequence is presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.141.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed SEQ.ID.NO from any group elected.

4. Invention I is related to inventions IV, V and VI as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the protein of Group I can be used in immunoaffinity chromatography methods for purifying antibodies and need not be used in the inventions IV, V and VI.

5. Invention II is related to inventions IV, VI and VII as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the DNA of Group I can be used to prepare hybrid clones of *A.actinomycetemcomitans* and need not be used in the inventions IV, VI and VII.

6. Invention III is related to inventions IV and V as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different

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product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the antibody of Group III can be used in immunoaffinity chromatography for purifying antigens and need not be used in the inventions IV and V.

7. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

8. Concerning the burden of search, classification of subject matter is merely one indication of the burdensome nature of the search involved. The DNA database searches required by each of the sequences and the literature searches for each of the sequences, both of which are particularly relevant in this art, are not co-extensive and are much more important in evaluating the burden of search. Further, it is doubted that applicants would readily accept the rejection of one sequence by the application of art teaching another sequence. Clearly different searches and issues are involved in the examination of each group.

9. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, the literature and sequence searches required for each of the Groups are not required for another of the Groups, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

10. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

11. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the

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application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

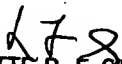
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Padmavathi v Baskar whose telephone number is (703) 308-8886. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30A.M-4: 00 P.M.) First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynette Smith can be reached on (703) 308-3909. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-4242 for regular communications and (703) 308-4242 for communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

P. Baskar Ph.D.

11/21/02


LYNETTE R. F. SMITH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600